

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 100700Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3874

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LY, UR

SUBJ: LIBYAN PRESS COVERAGE QADHAFI'S MOSCOW TRIP

1. LIBYA'S PRESS MEDIA GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF COL. QADHAFI'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. THE COUNTRY'S TWO LOCAL DAILIES DISPLAY BANNER HEADLINES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF LIBYAN DELEGATION LED BY COL. QADHAFI MEETING WITH PODGORNY, BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN. QADHAFI IS ALSO SHOWN LAYING A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE SOVIET WAR DEAD. PRESS REPORTS TALKS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS ON SECOND DAY OF VISIT LASTED ALMOST FOUR HOURS. DISCUSSION INVOLVED "COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." LIBYAN DELEGATION CONSISTED OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES ABU BAKR YUNIS, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINERAL WEALTH JADALLA AZUA AL-TALHI, MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY JUMA SALIM AL-ARBASH AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR. ALI ABD AL-SALEM TRAYKI, AND FROM THE SOVIET SIDE NIKOLAY BREZHNEV, LENOID BREZHNEV AND ANDREI GROMYKO. PRESS ACCOUNTS DESCRIBE DISCUSSIONS IN THE VAGUEST OF TERMS WITHOUT SPECIFYING AREAS OF AGREEMENT.

2. REDUNDANT THEME OF PRESS COVERAGE STRESSES QADHAFI'S VISIT INTENDED TO ESTABLISH MODEL FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN
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SMALL COUNTRIES AND MAJOR POWERS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT,

PRINCIPLES AND JOINT INTERESTS. PRESS QUOTES LIBYAN"
ARAB FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CHAIRMAN AMIR AL AMAGSI AS
INDICATING THAT ARAB/SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AIMED AT CONFRONTING
"REACTIONARY TIE OF ALLIANCE OF IMPERIALISM AND WORLD
ZIONISM." AL JIHAD, DECEMBER 9 EDITORIAL INDICATES
QADHAFI'S TRIP WILL YIELD "FRUITFUL RESULTS AND STRENG-
THEN THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION
AND LIBYA. IT WILL DECIDE THE ASPECTS OF FRUITFUL
COOPERATION FOR A LONG TIME BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

3. MEDIA RESPORTS COL. QADHAFI EXPRESSING HOPE THAT
NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL EVADE "THE MISTAKES OF THE
PAST YEARS." QADHAFI IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID TO HIS
SOVIET HOST THAT LIBYA WILL NOT "PUT THE HORSE
BEFORE THE CART UNLESS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION DISAPPOINTS
THE PEOPLE." QADHAFI WARNED THAT IT SHOULD BE
QUITE CLEAR TO THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION THAT
SMALL PEOPLE ARE READY TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS AT ANY
COST."

COMMENT: EXUBERANCE OF PRESS COMMENTARY ON PROSPECT OF
MUCH CLOSER AND STRONGER TIES BETWEEN LIBYA AND THE
SOVIET UNION SUGGESTS THAT EARLIER REPORTED SHIFT
OF LIBYA TOWARDS SOVIETS MAY BE QUANTUM JUMP IN THAT DI-

RECTION. MAKEUP OF LIBYAN DELEGATION SUGGESTS
EXTENSIVE FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES FOR
LIBYA'S DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT.
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